

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 27 are amended herein. Claims 17, 18, 24, and 25 are objected to, and claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15, 19-23, 26, and 28 are allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15 and 19-28 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 16 AND 27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MCDOWELL ET AL. (US 6,892,222)

According to claims 16 and 27 (as amended herein) of the present invention, a mail storing section temporarily stores a particular e-mail, which is addressed to an old destination mail address, until a new destination mail address is rewritten by a mail address rewriting section.

McDowell et al. ("McDowell") relates to a system and method for re-routing of e-mail messages. However, McDowell discloses that for those customers who have informed re-route.com of a change of address, the e-mail is routed to the TO account.

Nothing in McDowell discloses or suggests the feature as recited in the amended claims 16 and 27 of the present invention. Particularly, McDowell is silent regarding the feature of a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to an old destination mail address, until a new destination mail address is rewritten by a mail address rewriting section. Therefore, claims 16 and 27 patentably distinguish over McDowell.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on August 22, 2006 has been placed of record in the file but will not be considered in lieu of the improper RCE. An IDS is filed herewith this Amendment so that it is given consideration by the Examiner.

IV. CONCLUSION

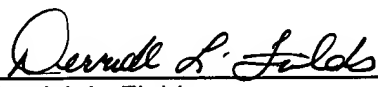
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Derrick L. Fields
Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501